

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claim 8 and amend claim 1 so that the claims read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process of discharging and transferring upwardly fluidized particles from a dense fluidizing layer forming section to a high-velocity transferring section having a diameter which is smaller than a diameter of the dense fluidizing layer forming section, wherein at least one intermediate cylindrical section having an elevation angle of 85° or greater is provided between the dense fluidizing layer forming section and the high-velocity transferring section, and wherein an average particle size of the fluidized particles is 30 to 90 μm , and a gas superficial speed for fluidization is 0.3 to 1.2 m/s in said dense fluidizing layer forming section and 3 to 30 m/s in said high-velocity transferring section.

2. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein a diameter of said intermediate cylindrical section is 1/3 to 2/3 times the diameter of the dense fluidizing layer forming section.

3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein a height of said intermediate cylindrical section is 1 to 6 times a diameter thereof.

4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate cylindrical section has truncated cone ends connected to said dense fluidizing layer forming section and said high-velocity transferring section, respectively.

5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the truncated cone end directly connected to said dense fluidizing layer forming section has an elevation angle of 40 to 80°.

6. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein only one intermediate cylindrical section is provided.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)